



Governor's E-Newsletter

December 6 - 12, 2003



Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i!

It is with pleasure that we send you this e-newsletter.

Aloha from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i.

Governor Lingle Goes to Washington

Governor Lingle met with key federal officials this week in Washington, D.C., while attending the National Governors Association meetings on long-term health care. She began the week meeting with Karen Tandy, the administrative head of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to discuss Hawai`i's ice epidemic and the need for more DEA agents in Hawai`i to combat importation of the drug into the state. Governor Lingle also met with Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Moseley and Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development Tom Dorr. An important meeting also took place with Spencer Abraham, the Director of the Department of Energy. She continued her efforts to gain support for the Akaka Bill (see below). The Governor continued discussions with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge regarding Hawai`i's crucial role in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, Governor Lingle met with the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England about the possibility of basing an aircraft carrier group in Hawai`i. An aircraft carrier group in Hawai`i would allow the country to respond more rapidly and forcefully should trouble arise in the Pacific Basin.

Major Headlines

[Governor Lingle Addresses Long-Term Health Care](#)

[The Akaka Bill Gains Support in Washington, D.C.](#)

[Governor Lingle-Secretary Ridge Discuss Hawai`i's Role in Homeland Security](#)

[Hawai`i Sees an Increase in Visitors From Japan](#)



Governor Lingle joined Governors Phil Bredesen of Tennessee and Sonny Perdue of Georgia in a nationally broadcast live television interview about long-term health care.

Governor Lingle Addresses Long-Term Health Care

Governor Lingle was among the participants in a nationally broadcast television special on December 10 exploring issues, challenges and opportunities facing policymakers as America's population ages. She focused on community-based care systems during the PBS program, entitled "Living Better: A National Conversation on Aging." The broadcast launched a dialogue among government leaders, the business community and the general public about ways to prepare for the burgeoning population of older adults. Nearly 77 million baby boomers will begin to turn age 65 by 2008 - which is more than double the current population of seniors - and experts warn that this could overwhelm America's health care system. Governors participating in the TV production were selected by the chairman of the National Governors Association, Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne, because of their expertise in this critical area and service on *A Lifetime of Health and Dignity Task Force*. [Select the file entitled Community-Based Care to view the video.](#)



U.S. Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon is pictured above.

The Akaka Bill Gains Support in Washington, D.C.

While in Washington, D.C. for the National Governors Association meetings, Governor Lingle met with U.S. Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon to gain his support of the Akaka Bill. Senator Smith, who is also a member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, agreed to co-sponsor the bill with Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska and Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah. Read more in the [Honolulu Star-Bulletin](#).



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is pictured above.

Governor Lingle-Secretary Ridge Discuss Hawai`i's Role in Homeland Security

Hawai`i's role in promoting stability, international cooperation and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region was discussed in Washington, D.C. when Governor Linda Lingle visited with Secretary Tom Ridge, who heads the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Secretary Ridge, a former governor of Pennsylvania, was among the featured speakers at the Inaugural Asia-Pacific Homeland Security Summit and Exposition, held in Honolulu last month by the State of Hawai`i. The summit drew leaders from 19 countries to explore ways of working together in fighting the global war on terror. The Governor had the unique opportunity to spend over two hours at the Homeland Security headquarters visiting with the Secretary and senior staff.



Hawai`i Sees an Increase in Visitors From Japan

When Governor Lingle traveled to Japan in July of this year, her mission was to promote tourism and increase the number of visitors to Hawai`i. Governor Lingle met with tourism industry officials and government officials, including Fusae Ohta, the first woman governor of Japan. She visited 2 military bases, met with executives of top Japan businesses including Sony Corporation, the president of JTB and 5 airlines. While on her trip she had 56 media interviews, gave 6 keynote speeches and provided the opening remarks at 14 events. **Governor Lingle said in follow-up interviews that Hawai`i will see the first results of her efforts within six months. Five months later, JTB reports Hawai`i will see an increase in visitors this holiday season of 4.3 percent over last year.** Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#).

Quote of the Week: After meetings with federal officials in Washington, D.C., Governor Linda Lingle said she is cautiously optimistic about the future of the Akaka Bill. "We have been working hard with the President on down. I think I have a pretty good chance to get it approved..."

Key Upcoming Events

December 15 Major General Robert Lee, the State Adjutant General, will be on the radio live from Afghanistan; KSSK radio station at 92.3 FM or 590 AM on your radio dial, 7:15 a.m. (subject to change)

December 16 Major General Robert Lee, the State Adjutant General, will be on the radio live from Afghanistan, KHVH radio station at 830 AM on your radio dial, 7:15 a.m. (subject to change)

December 16 Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center Christmas Program, Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom, 11:00 a.m. - noon.

December 18 Blessing and dedication of Ilalo Street & Forrest Avenue projects, Kaka`ako, 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

December 19 First night of Chanukah

December 20 Hawai`i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy completion ceremony, Pearl City High School auditorium, 11:00 a.m. - noon.

December 21 Lighting of the Chanukah Menorah, public park next to Waikiki Terrace Hotel, 6:30 - 6:55 p.m.